

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

15 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 15 July 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gates, Mr. Gray,
Mr. Harr, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Riddleberger,
Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith

1. Libyan Situation

Mr. Harr referred to a cable from Ambassador Jones in Tripoli which expressed considerable concern about the current situation in Libya. This led to a general discussion of the value of the Wheelus base, terminating in a statement from Mr. Gates that a report on this subject from the JCS is expected in about a week.

2. Vietnam

Mr. Harr then turned to the internal security problem in South Vietnam, as pointed up by the recent assassinations of American military personnel. It was agreed that Communist infiltration poses a real problem in that country. Mr. Gates said that Defense is dispatching a number of "civilians" to help in the training of the Civil Guard.

3. Reconnaissance Satellites

Mr. Gray then referred to the OCB Operations Plan for Outer Space, dated 18 March 1959, particularly paragraph 57, which lays a requirement on the Department of State to take steps to establish a favorable climate abroad toward the launching of U. S. reconnaissance satellites. In response, Mr. Murphy gave a brief report of State's views on this matter. The DCI asked whether we have considered taking an official U. S. position that satellites

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represent a violation of national territory; he felt that we would stand to gain more than the Soviets if this position were accepted. Mr. Murphy said that we have not taken such a position, but pointed out that Dr. Dryden is chairing a committee which is considering matters of this kind.

4. Man in Space

Mr. Gray then questioned whether there is anything that the U.S. could or should do to attempt to insure our ability to place a man in outer space before the Soviets do, or whether we should simply reconcile ourselves to assuming second place in this endeavor. The DCI made the point that we should exploit to our advantage the probable difference in philosophical approach to this problem between the Soviets and ourselves, i. e. that the Soviets will probably not be overly concerned with the physical safety of their first human pioneers in this field, whereas the American view would be that we would not attempt to orbit a human being until we are virtually certain of recovering him alive.

5. Nuclear Aircraft

Mr. Gates brought the group up to date on current testimony before Congressional committees with respect to the possible development of a nuclear airplane. He said that there would undoubtedly be a difference of opinion among the military services as to the value of such a project but that he himself felt that whatever military value it might have would hardly justify the expenditure of some \$2 billion, which is the estimated sum that would be required to assure that the U.S. has a nuclear aircraft before the Soviets. He acknowledged that there is a basic public relations problem involved.

6. Tibetan Refugees

Mr. Dulles referred to a cable from the Consul General in Calcutta making certain recommendations with regard to possible admission into the U.S. of Tibetan refugees. It was decided that this item could be more profitably discussed at the open meeting, where the Report on Escapees and Refugees was scheduled. (The DCI did raise this at the open meeting and it was generally agreed that there was merit to looking into this situation in further detail.)

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7. Report on Soviet Activities in the Medical Field

The report from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare on the progress, or lack of progress, toward mobilizing U.S. resources to combat Soviet activities in the medical field was noted. In this connection the DCI showed the group a comprehensive draft study prepared by the Office of Scientific Intelligence, which covers Soviet activities. Mr. Gates acknowledged that the briefing he had received from ONI on this matter had been largely based on the OSI study.

8. Visit of Spanish Journalists

Mr. Murphy remarked that the recent visit of a delegation of Spanish journalists to the U.S. had apparently been successful, in that these people seemed to have received a good impression of the U.S.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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